

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A vertical planting system comprising:

a plurality of individual substantially identical growing containers each
having a bottom wall, outwardly tapered side walls defining a hollow
interior and an open top surface;

said open top surface of each said container, being defined by the upper
margins of said side walls, defining a plurality of discrete radially
extending planting areas spaced arcuately apart about a common
central upright axis of each of said containers;

said top surface of each of said containers having a substantially greater
surface area than that of said bottom wall, each said bottom wall of
each said containers having a central support pole receiving aperture
formed therethrough coaxial with said central upright axis and fluid
drainage holes formed therethrough;

said bottom wall of each said container also having a corner alignment
cavity positioned and sized to receive an alignment pin formed within
and upwardly extending from an alignment notch formed into each
said upper margin of said container, said alignment notch
substantially mating with a corner of said bottom wall of said
container;

said containers being vertically stackable and self-aligning one directly on top of the next to form a growing column supported by an elongated upright support pole driven into the ground and inserted through each said aperture of each of said containers in coaxially alignment with the upright axis;

a nutrient and water diffuser box having a bottom wall and upwardly extending side walls and an open top surface defining a substantially open interior, said diffuser box vertically stackable and self aligning directly atop and supported on a top of one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said diffuser having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough slidably engaged over an upper end of the support pole, said bottom of said diffuser box also including fluid drainage holes;

a fluid collector having a bottom wall, outwardly tapered side walls and an open top surface structured to supportively receive and be self-aligned with directly against a bottom one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said fluid collector having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough and slidably engaged over a lower portion of the support pole.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A vertical planting system comprising:

a plurality of individual substantially identical molded growing containers each having a bottom wall, outwardly tapered side walls defining a hollow interior adapted to hold growing media therein, and an open top surface;

said open top surface of each said container, being defined by the upper margins of said side walls, defining a plurality of discrete radially extending substantially round planting areas arcuately evenly spaced apart about a central upright axis of each of said containers and extending downwardly into said hollow interior;

said top surface of each of said container having a substantially greater surface area than that of said bottom wall, said bottom wall having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough coaxial with said central upright axis and fluid drainage holes also formed therethrough;

said bottom wall of each said container also having a corner alignment cavity positioned and sized to receive an alignment pin formed within and upwardly extending from an alignment notch formed into each said upper margin of said container, said alignment notch substantially mating with a corner of said bottom wall of each said container;

said containers being vertically stackable and self-aligning one directly on top of the next to form a vertical growing column supported by an elongated upright support pole driven into the ground for support and inserted through each said aperture of each bottom wall of said containers, each upwardly successive container rotationally offset about the upright axis in self-aligning fashion whereby each of said planting areas is unobstructed for plant growth by said planting areas of the container immediately thereabove;

a nutrient and water diffuser box molded having a bottom wall, upwardly extending side walls and an open top surface defining a substantially open interior, said diffuser box vertically stackable and self aligning directly atop and supported on a top of one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said diffuser having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough and slidably engaged over an upper end of the support pole, said bottom of said diffuser box also including fluid drainage holes formed therethrough;

a molded fluid funnel having a bottom wall, outwardly tapered side walls and an open top surface structured to directly supportively receive and be self-aligned beneath a bottom one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said fluid funnel having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough which is slidably engaged over a lower portion of the support pole;

a fluid nutrient and water discharge positioned directly above said diffuser box whereby fluid nutrient and water flowing into said diffuser box will drain downwardly through a central portion of growing media in each downwardly successive container, a remainder of fluid nutrient and water flowing from said fluid funnel into between the pole receiving aperture and the support pole directly onto the ground.

Claim 3 (currently amended) A vertical planting system comprising:

a plurality of individual substantially identical molded as a unit growing containers each having a bottom wall, conical-like upwardly

expanding side walls defining a hollow interior holding growing media
and an open top surface;

said open top surface of each said container, being defined by the upper
margins of said side walls, defining four discrete radially extending
substantially round upwardly facing planting areas orthogonally
spaced apart one to another about a central upright axis of each of
said containers and extending downwardly into said hollow interior;

said top surface of each of said container having a substantially greater
area than that of said bottom wall, said bottom wall having a central
support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough and fluid
drainage holes also formed therethrough;

an elongated upright support pole adapted in length to be driven into the
ground for support and having an exposed upright portion thereof;

said bottom wall of each said container also having a corner alignment
cavity positioned and sized to receive an alignment pin formed within
and upwardly extending from an alignment notch formed into each
said upper margin of said container, said alignment notch
substantially mating with a corner of said bottom wall of each said
container;

said containers being vertically stackable one directly on top of the next in
self-aligning fashion to form a vertical growing column supported by
said support pole after being driven into the ground and inserted
through each said aperture of each of said containers, each
upwardly successive container rotationally offset about the axis in

top plan view projected area whereby each of said planting areas is unobstructed for plant growth by next above said planting areas;

a nutrient and water diffuser box molded as a unit having a bottom wall, upwardly extending side walls and an open top surface defining a substantially open interior, said diffuser box vertically stackable and self aligning atop a top of one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said diffuser having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough and slidably engaged over the support pole, said bottom of said diffuser box also including fluid drainage holes formed therethrough;

a fluid funnel molded as a unit having a bottom wall, outwardly tapered side walls and an open top surface structured to supportively receive and be self-aligned directly against and beneath a bottom one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said fluid funnel having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough which is slidably engaged over a lower portion of the support pole;

a fluid nutrient and water discharge member positioned directly above said diffuser box whereby fluid nutrient and water flowing from said discharge member into said diffuser box will drain downwardly through a central portion of growing media in each downwardly successive container, a remainder of fluid nutrient and water flowing from said fluid funnel into the ground.

Claim 4 (new) A vertical planting system consisting of:

a plurality of individual substantially identical growing containers each having a bottom wall, outwardly tapered side walls defining a hollow interior and an open top surface;

said open top surface of each said container, being defined by the upper margins of said side walls, defining a plurality of discrete radially extending planting areas spaced arcuately apart about a common central upright axis of each of said containers;

said top surface of each of said containers having a substantially greater surface area than that of said bottom wall, each said bottom wall of each said containers having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough coaxial with said central upright axis and fluid drainage holes formed therethrough;

said containers being vertically stackable and self-aligning one directly on top of the next to form a growing column supported by an elongated upright support pole driven into the ground and inserted through each said aperture of each of said containers in coaxially alignment with the upright axis;

a nutrient and water diffuser box having a bottom wall and upwardly extending side walls and an open top surface defining a substantially open interior, said diffuser box vertically stackable and self aligning directly atop and supported on a top of one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said diffuser having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough slidably

engaged over an upper end of the support pole, said bottom of said diffuser box also including fluid drainage holes;

a fluid collector having a bottom wall, outwardly tapered side walls and an open top surface structured to supportively receive and be self-aligned directly against a bottom one of said containers in the growing column, said bottom wall of said fluid collector having a central support pole receiving aperture formed therethrough and slidably engaged over a lower portion of the support pole.

Claim 5 (new) A vertical planting system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said bottom wall of said diffuser box also having a corner alignment cavity positioned and sized to receive said pin in self-aligning fashion with said upper margin of said container.

Claim 6 (new) A vertical planting system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein:

said open top surface of said fluid collector being defined by an upper margin thereof which also has an inwardly extending alignment pin which aligns with and engages into said alignment cavity of said container.

Claim 7 (new) A vertical planting system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said bottom wall of said diffuser box also having a corner alignment cavity positioned and sized to receive said pin in self-aligning fashion with said upper margin of said container.

Claim 8 (new) A vertical planting system as set forth in Claim 7, wherein:

said open top surface of said fluid collector being defined by an upper margin thereof which also has an inwardly extending alignment pin

which aligns with and engages into said alignment cavity of said container.

Claim 9 (new) A vertical planting system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein:

said bottom wall of said diffuser box also having a corner alignment cavity positioned and sized to receive said pin in self-aligning fashion with said upper margin of said container.

Claim 10 (new) A vertical planting system as set forth in Claim 9, wherein:

said open top surface of said fluid collector being defined by an upper margin thereof which also has an inwardly extending alignment pin which aligns with and engages into said alignment cavity of said container.